

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 30, 2007. Claims 10, 11, 13-20 are pending in this application, with claims 13-18 having been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 10 and 19 are the independent claims presently under consideration. By the present Amendment, claims 10 and 19 have been amended. It is submitted that no new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised by the present Amendment.

Claims 10, 11, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent 2,408,560 to Keehn. Claims 10, 11, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,752,562 to Mills et al. Claims 10, 11, 19 and 20 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by DE 3,223,302 to Leitner. Claims 10, 11, 19 and 20 were rejected under Section 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent 575,032 to Kimbrell.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicant's undersigned attorney during the telephone interview conducted on April 24, 2008. During that interview various aspects of the present disclosure were discussed.

Independent claim 10 has been amended to recite a lock pin with push-button-operated axial locking, comprising a tubular body having radially outwards directed recesses, an actuating plunger in the tubular body and axially displaceable under spring loading and a plurality of rigid locking elements pointing in opposite directions which are mounted in said radially outwards directed recesses in the body and which are moved by pressure of said plunger. Each of the plurality of rigid locking elements has at least one semi-circular claw-like portion arranged to interlock the plurality of rigid locking elements together in an interlocked position, the

semi-circular claw-like portions when interlocked form a pivot bearing shell. A proximate end tip of the actuating plunger forms a bearing shaft that bears against the semi-circular claw-like portions of the locking elements which form a pivot bearing shell for the bearing shaft. The bearing shaft formed by the proximate end tip of the actuating plunger sits within the semi-circular claw-like portions and holds the plurality of rigid locking elements together in the interlocked position.

According to salient features of the structure as presently claimed, since the proximate end tip of the actuating plunger forms a bearing shaft that bears against the semi-circular claw-like portions of the locking elements forming a pivot bearing shell, the bearing-axis of the locking elements can be formed pinless.

In contrast, the cited art relate to devices that require a pin. Accordingly, Applicant submits independent claim 10 is patentably distinct from the cited art.

Independent claim 19 is believed to be patentably distinct from the cited art, for at least similar reasons.

It is believed that each of the claims is now in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

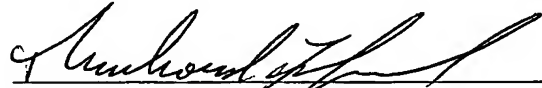
The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fees to our deposit account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Entry of this amendment and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Richard F. Jaworski', is written over a horizontal line.

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